Working Group 2 Report Out

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What we liked

- Necessary elevation of manufacturing maturity and risk
- Well structured framework, common definitions and language, and enhanced communication
- Connectivity with TRLs and the Acquisition community
- Process will provide more detail to DAB and/or MDA
- Details in Deskbook are more flexible than draft policy memo

What we did not like

- Locks in S&T and Acquisition Programs for a specified MRL (no appeals process)
- Policy memo (draft version) should not be too prescriptive, top down (should be at Service level)… but understand it still needs teeth

Discussion points and Issues

- Observation- a policy may stifle innovation- many technologies carry excessive risks - may require parallel risk reduction strategy by PM
- Does volume matter? - MRAs do not apply uniformly across programs (one vs 1000’s, fitting into a production schedule)
- MRL 1-3 hard to define an exact level, good idea but only for a “look” to enhance researcher awareness
- What is a reasonable guidance on how to integrate/interface with existing PRR processes (or interchange)

Discussion points and Issues

- In Army experience, MRL 4 tracks (and should track) to TRL 6 at MS B decision point
- Two communities (DDR&E up to MS B), Acquisition (post MS B)
- Resources required to implement policy memo on existing programs (new programs can write in contract language)
- Army and Navy manage 6.3 programs (to include ATDs and ACTDs) by CTE (Pre- MS-B), AF (MRA) approach is broader
- Execution- with TRAs or stand-alone (calling out an MRL #)- Army desired a combined TRA/MRA

Policy Memo Recommendations

- Executive Summary and intro emphasize that policy provide latitude to “remediate” missed objectives

Deskbook and CONOPS Recommendations

- Army- Couple MRL 4 with TRL 6 to allow programs to meet MS B
  - Others- leave it at MRL 6
- Include a sentence in Deskbook Contractor Language section that Award Fee can be used, but leave to Services/Agencies to best fit in their contracts. Don’t tie award fee to schedule, tie to event/maturation level
- Address in Deskbook situations where MRL level drops intentionally or unexpectedly
- Expand training and resources- be positioned to assist PMs though first MRA
- Give MS Decision Authority latitude to remediate
- Write MRL 1-3 more in context from 6.1-6.2 community perspective (some saw levels as unnecessary)
- Define critical technology in context of Manufacturing (MRA Deskbook)
- Add projection relevant and production representative definitions